

RESPONSE

Claims 1-41 are pending. The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1-41, under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1-29 of copending United States patent application Serial No. 09/351,579 (the “‘579 Application”). Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-41, under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 7 of United States Patent No. 6,115,454 (the “‘454 Patent”).

Provisional Type Double Patenting Rejection Over a Pending Second Application

In the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1-41 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of Application Serial No. 09/351,579. Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer relative to Application Serial No. 09/351,579 in order to overcome this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the terminal disclaimer.

Double Patenting Rejection Over a Prior U.S. Patent

In the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1-41 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of United States Patent No. 6,115,454. Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer relative to the ‘454 patent in order to overcome this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the terminal disclaimer.